

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-29, and 32-41 stand rejected Applicant is canceling claims 1-41 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 4, and 30-31 were previously canceled. Claims 42-47 have been added to further define the invention. As a result, claims 42-47 are pending for examination with claim 42 being an independent claim. The amendments made and the new claims added find support in the specification, and do not constitute new matter.

The Examiner had previously applied Maurille (US 6,484,196) (“Maurille”) as an anticipatory reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Applicants new Claim 42 calls for: “persistently displaying the plurality messages, from each of the plurality of text generation system users, to each user of the plurality of text generation system users so that all previous messages are available to the text generation system users without messages that scroll from a display being lost, and the plurality of messages displayed include at least one message not to or from the user” (underlining added for emphasis)

As such, Applicants submit that Claim 42 would not be anticipated by Maurille under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Amendment
Application Number: 09/483,469
Attorney Docket Number: 137786.01

The present invention provides “discussion system 50 stores the messages or turns so that they are generally persistent. All turns from all sessions of a discussion are available to each user during each session, even messages that are originally transmitted in the discussion when a user computer 54 is not included in the discussion. Such persistence for messages allows discussion system 50 to provide communication for collaborative work and to maintain a useful record of such communication.” (page 5, lines 4-9)

Maurille, on the other hand provides “Message mode allows a user to interact with a private bulletin board in which his messages (i.e., any message involving the user as sender or recipient) are instantly available and displayed with full threading information. Message mode supports an acknowledge (Ack) reply which, when sent by a user in response to a particular message, closes the thread comprising the particular message and records the users acknowledgment that they read/accepted the message. Because each bulletin board is private, no user other than the authorized user can view its contents.” (column 6. lines 13-23)

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 42 is not anticipated by Maurille under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Claims 43-47 are dependent on Claim 42. As such, Claims 43-47 are believed allowable based upon Claim 42.

Amendment
Application Number: 09/483,469
Attorney Docket Number: 137786.01

Accordingly, examination of the above-referenced Application is requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment
Application Number: 09/483,469
Attorney Docket Number: 137786.01

MAIL STOP RCE
AMENDMENT

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

Microsoft Corporation

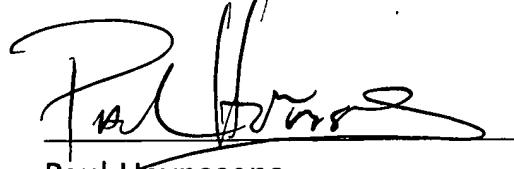
Date: September 17, 2004

By: 

Paul B. Heynssens, Reg. No: 47,648
Attorney for Applicants
Direct telephone (425) 707-3913
Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond WA 98052-6399

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as Express mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: 9/17/04


Paul Heynssens

Amendment
Application Number: 09/483,469
Attorney Docket Number: 137786.01

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:

deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

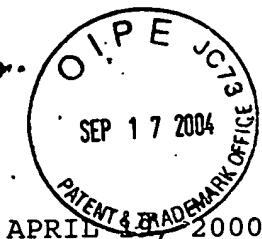
transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (703) _____.

9/17/2004
Date



Signature

Paul B. Heynssens
Type or Print Name



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office
ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER
OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

PTAS



*RECEIVED

SEP 22 2004

Technology Center 2100

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
NOTICE OF RECORDATION OF ASSIGNMENT DOCUMENT

THE ENCLOSED DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RECORDED BY THE ASSIGNMENT DIVISION OF THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE. A COMPLETE MICROFILM COPY IS AVAILABLE AT THE ASSIGNMENT SEARCH ROOM ON THE REEL AND FRAME NUMBER REFERENCED BELOW.

PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS NOTICE. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS RECORDATION NOTICE REFLECTS THE DATA PRESENT IN THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM. IF YOU SHOULD FIND ANY ERRORS OR HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS NOTICE, YOU MAY CONTACT THE EMPLOYEE WHOSE NAME APPEARS ON THIS NOTICE AT 703-308-9723. PLEASE SEND REQUEST FOR CORRECTION TO: U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, ASSIGNMENT DIVISION, BOX ASSIGNMENTS, CG-4, 1213 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY, SUITE 320, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

RECORDATION DATE: 01/14/2000

REEL/FRAME: 010543/0125
NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

BRIEF: ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNOR'S INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS).

ASSIGNOR:
SMITH, MARC A.

DOC DATE: 01/12/2000

ASSIGNEE:
MICROSOFT CORPORATION
ONE MICROSOFT WAY
REDMOND, WASHINGTON 98052

SERIAL NUMBER: 09483469
PATENT NUMBER:

FILING DATE: 01/14/2000
ISSUE DATE:

PAULA MCCRAY, EXAMINER
ASSIGNMENT DIVISION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS

25-APP.
ACCT# 137786.1
APPLICATION

Microsoft Patent Dept.

MAY 03 2000

① PD ND By: JN/EP

MS 137786.1

02-15-2000

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark OfficeO I P E J C
SEP 17 2004

EET

101267888

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks. Please review the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies): Marc A. Smith	2. Name and address of receiving party(ies): Name: Microsoft Corporation
Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	Business Address: One Microsoft Way Redmond, Washington 98052
3. Nature of Conveyance: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment <input type="checkbox"/> Merger <input type="checkbox"/> Security Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Name <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe):	Additional name(s) & address(es) attached RECEIVED SEP 22 2004 Technology Center 2100
Execution Date:	4. Application number(s) or patent number(s): 09/483,469
If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: January 12, 2000	
A. Patent Application No.(s)	B. Patent No.(s)
Additional numbers attached? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed: Mark M. Meininger Ipsilon LLP 4370 NE Halsey Street Portland Oregon 97213	6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1
7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41): <u>\$ 40.00</u>	8. Deposit account number: 50-0463 (Attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)
<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any deficiencies are authorized to be charged to deposit account.	

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE

9. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Name: Mark M. Meininger
Registration No. 32,428

Date: January 14, 2000

02/14/2000 TTOM11 00000139 500463 09483469

01 FC:581 40.00 CH

Total number of pages including cover sheet: 3

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, I, Marc A. Smith (hereinafter referred to as ASSIGNOR), of the City of Redmond, of the County of King and the State of Washington, am the inventor of an invention entitled Social Accounting System in Text Discussion System, as described and claimed in the specification forming part of an application for United States letters patent being filed herewith;

WHEREAS Microsoft Corporation (hereinafter referred to as ASSIGNEE), a corporation of the State of Washington having a place of business at One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052, is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to the invention and in and to any letters patent that may be granted therefor in the United States and in any and all foreign countries;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exchange for good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, ASSIGNOR hereby sells, assigns and transfers unto said ASSIGNEE, the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention, said application and any and all letters patent which may be granted for said invention in the United States of America and its territorial possessions and in any and all foreign countries, and in any and all divisions, reissues and continuations thereof, including the right to file foreign applications directly in the name of ASSIGNEE and to claim priority rights deriving from said United States application to which said foreign applications are entitled by virtue of international convention, treaty or otherwise, said invention, application and all letters patent on said invention to be held and enjoyed by ASSIGNEE and its successors and assigns for their use and benefit and of their successors and assigns as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by ASSIGNOR had this assignment, transfer and sale not been made. ASSIGNOR hereby authorizes and requests the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue all letters patent on said invention to ASSIGNEE. ASSIGNOR agrees to

execute all instruments and documents required for the making and prosecution of applications for United States and foreign letters patent on said invention, for litigation regarding said letters patent, or for the purpose of protecting title to said invention or letters patent therefor.

Executed at the place and date opposite my signature below.

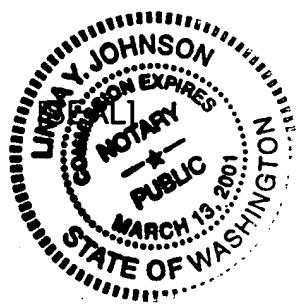
Marc A. Smith

At Redmond, Washington

on this 12 day of Jan, 2000

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
COUNTY OF KING)
SS.

This 12 day of January 2000, before me personally came the above-named Marc A. Smith, who executed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and who acknowledged to me that he executed the same of his own free will for the purposes set forth therein.



Inda Y. Johnson
Notary Public for Washington
My commission expires: 3-13-2001